

## **Definitions of Special Education Instructional Arrangements and Their Implications for Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) Requirements**

### **CONSULTATION**

Consultation is a teaching arrangement in which the special educator provides support or consultation to the classroom teacher. The classroom teacher remains the primary instructor responsible for curriculum planning and student assessment, with the special educator providing supplemental instruction. Such support may take many forms, such as:

1. Providing guidance or modeling in instructional techniques, resources, or accommodations that will enable a particular student to succeed in the curriculum.
2. Instructing an individual or small group on a specific aspect of a core curricular area (e.g., conducting a reading or spelling group or providing one-on-one instruction in a specific basic skill area) with the classroom teacher retaining primary responsibility for instruction in that core content area for that child.

#### ***Implications for HQT:***

*The special educator is not subject to the “highly qualified teacher” (HQT) requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law when he or she is providing consultative, supplemental, or case management services. The classroom teacher is expected to meet the HQT requirements for the academic content area taught.*

### **TEAM TEACHING**

Team teaching is an instructional arrangement whereby a classroom teacher and special educator are jointly responsible for the primary instruction of a student or group of students including curriculum planning and student assessment.

#### ***Implications for HQT:***

*In a team teaching situation, at least one of the individuals in the partnership must meet the HQT requirements for each core content area(s) being taught.*

### **PRIMARY INSTRUCTION**

A primary instructional arrangement is defined as one in which the special educator provides the primary instruction in any of the core content areas (English language arts/reading, math, science, and social studies) to one or more students, including instructional planning and assessment of student performance in that core content area. Primary instruction supplants classroom instruction in a core content area, and the primary instruction special educator is typically the teacher of record for that core content area. The instruction may take place in the regular classroom or outside it. *Primary instruction requirements also apply to special educators or SLPs who supervise paraprofessionals who provide primary instruction to special education students in one or more core content areas.*

#### ***Implications for HQT:***

*Special educators must meet the HQT requirements for the highest grade level of his or her current students in each core content area.*